

Some of the beneficiaries decided that they were not going to lose without a fight. Joyce Scantling of Racine, Wisconsin, has worked tirelessly on this issue. Together with 50 or 60 seniors and beneficiaries, they have rallied support around Medicare legislation to fix these reimbursement rates.

I hold in my hand right here thousands of signatures from Wisconsin's seniors and Medicare beneficiaries urging Congress to pass Medicare legislation to fix these reimbursement rates.

#### THE EPA HAS GOTTEN OUT OF HAND

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in 1995, the EPA came crying to Congress saying they needed more money to clean up our air and our water and our Superfund sites. Shortly after that appeal for cash, records show that the EPA gave a \$160,000 grant to facilitate wind energy technologies in China. Unbelievable. While American taxpayers are busting their buns to pay the bill around here, the EPA gave our hard-earned taxpayer dollars for projects in China.

Mr. Speaker, this is out of hand. Electric bicycle technology, wind energy technology, American taxpayer dollars? The EPA should be handcuffed. Beam me up. I yield back all the flatulence in China paid for by the EPA.

#### WHEN WILL THE REPUBLICANS RESPOND TO AMERICA'S DEMAND FOR HMO REFORM?

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the House passed a few weeks ago the HMO reform bill, we thought our day had finally come. But this week we learned that the vote was really only the first step. The Republican leadership appointed the conference committee to negotiate with the Senate with only one member who voted for HMO reform.

Instead of responding to the needs of the American people, the Republican leadership has chosen a path to ignore the will of the majority of this House and the needs of the American people.

This week's Newsweek magazine cover story talks about it: HMO Hell. How much longer does the Republican leadership intend to keep American families living in this HMO hell?

The bipartisan bill that passed this House overwhelmingly would provide for no gag rules, direct access to specialists, a binding external appeals process, access to emergency care, but also the accountability of that decisionmaker.

Let us see if we can make them hear, if not this year then next year. We want to get out of HMO hell.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO MORNING EDITION ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I regret having not been included in a party here in town, but after having finished the financial modernization bill late last night and then about 1 o'clock this morning joining with my colleagues as we filed the rule which the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is going to be managing in just a few minutes, I woke up this morning and listened to National Public Radio, and there was a great party that was going on celebrating the 20th anniversary of a program called Morning Edition, which has provided us with a great deal of grist for debate and argument here on the House floor for the last couple of decades.

We are marking all kinds of anniversaries. My friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) just talked about the fact that yesterday was the 224th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. We are about to mark the 10th anniversary of the crumbling of the Berlin Wall. One of the stories on Morning Edition this morning consisted of the death of Nicolae Ceausescu a decade ago, so we are marking a lot of anniversaries.

I would just like to throw in the fact that as a Republican who listens to National Public Radio, I congratulate Morning Edition on their 20th.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3196, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 362 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 362

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3196) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; (2) the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative Young of Florida or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for division of the question, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one

motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. House Resolution 359 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 362 is a structured rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3196, the foreign operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 2000. The bill provides for 1 hour of debate in the House, equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as having been read for amendment. Further, the rule provides that the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report, if offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) or his designee shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for a division of the question.

The amendment shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report, which is 20 minutes, with time equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

Also, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Finally, the rule provides that House Resolution 359 is laid on the table.

Mr. Speaker, the President vetoed H.R. 2606 on October 18. Since that time, very serious negotiations have taken place between the Congress and the administration to address the concerns raised in the President's veto message.

The bill which this rule brings forth, H.R. 3196, is very similar to the conference agreement on H.R. 2606, with some provisions added to make this bill one that can pass both the House, the Senate, and be signed by the President.

The main difference between today's bill and the vetoed bill are modifications of legislative language or earmarked funding within accounts. The rule allows for an amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) or his designee which would fully fund, for example, the Wye River Accord, the President's request for the Wye River Accord, which is extremely important and which will go very far in assuring the security of Israel, by providing \$1.8 billion approximately for that purpose.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG), the gentleman from Alabama (Chairman CALAHAN), the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), and